

HOUSE RESOLUTION 295

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and recognize Bill and Gary Watkins upon being named 2003 Tennessee Loggers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves among their professional colleagues by achieving the highest standards of excellence within their chosen occupation; and

WHEREAS, brothers, Bill and Gary Watkins, display this noteworthy level of distinction in their professional endeavors, and they recently received special recognition for their accomplishments when the Tennessee Forestry Association named the brothers as the 2003 Tennessee Loggers of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the brothers and their company were nominated for this notable honor by the University of Tennessee, Ames Plantation Director Allen Houston, who was impressed with both the quality of logging work that the brothers did and with their commitment to conservation ethics; and

WHEREAS, Billy and Gary Watkins own and operate B&G Logging, located in Hickory Valley in Hardeman County; the company, which is a contract hauler that employs three individuals in addition to the Watkins brothers, serves the West Tennessee area and uses a highly effective, select cut harvesting method; and

WHEREAS, B&G Logging, the largest African-American logging company in Hardeman County, was also selected as Hardeman County Logger of the Year for 2003; and

WHEREAS, continuing a family logging legacy that includes four generations and dates back almost a century, Billy Watkins, a Tennessee Master Logger, started his own logging

company in 1979 with one chainsaw and one truck; his younger brother, Gary, joined him in 1989, and B&G Logging was formed; and

WHEREAS, the brothers' devotion to B&G Logging has survived setbacks stemming from ever changing wood prices and severe weather conditions; in overcoming these occasional obstacles, the brothers have never wavered from the principles that have helped them achieve their remarkable success: hard work, safety, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Billy and Gary Watkins epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; the brothers exhibit a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to their community and State with generous contributions to St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis and the Tennessee State Trooper Wives Association in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, B&G Logging remains a family business with Billy's wife, Janet, performing bookkeeping duties, and his son, Billy, Jr., aspiring to be a part of the next generation to continue the family business; Billy's two daughters, Tawana Defreitas and Tanisha, his niece, Tiyana, his granddaughter, landra Defreitas, and his son-in-law, Ian Defreitas, also proudly support the family's logging company; and

WHEREAS, Gary's side of the family also is very proud of the family business; Gary enjoys the love and admiration of this two daughters, Cassandra and Lasundra, his son, James, and his granddaughter, Catlyn; and

WHEREAS, Billy and Gary Watkins exhibit a dedication to excellence in logging and a commitment to conserving our natural resources that clearly deserve the respect and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend and honor Billy and Gary Watkins for their meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, congratulate them upon being named 2003 Tennessee Loggers of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.